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Mr. Spencer
Cynanche Maligna
March 8th 1822
216 Walnut St. Mrs. D. B.
James Spencer - Virg.
Cynanche Maligna

admitted March 25th 1822.

James R. Prince - Esq.
Private Secretary
about the year 1850

Dissertation
on
Cynanche Maligna.

By
James Spencer.

of Cumberland County
Virginia

A. Johnston

17th Nov 1840

James W. Smith

of London

Cynanche Maligna
or
Malignant Sore Throat.

This disease is sometimes Epidemic. It attacks persons of all ages, but more commonly those in a young and infant state.

This disease is usually attended with considerable pyrexia, and the symptoms of excitation to this; such as frequent cold shiverings, sickness, anxiety, and vomiting are often the first appearances of the disease. There is also a dejection of spirits. There is sometimes a pain in the head. Sensations of heat and chillings succeed each other until the stage of excitement is fully developed. In some cases of the disease in children it is sometimes pretty much advanced before the child expresses much uneasiness. The fauces and throat upon examination appear inflamed. The face is intense and flushed with impetuosity. Spots are soon visible on the inflamed fauces, they are at first of a deep red colour and afterwards of a

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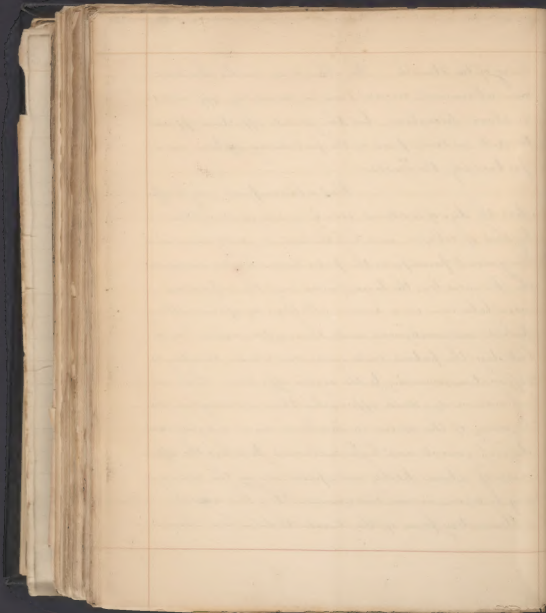
white or ash colour, and lastly of a brown or blackish colour
these frequently an effluence on the skin, but this latter
is not always an attendant symptom. But in the more
formidable cases the disease ends most tally before the
throat passes through these gradations, and in general
it is only when the fever is lengthened to the third or
fourth day that there are ill conditioned sloughs, with
an ~~excessive~~ acrid discharge from them and from the nostrils.

Soon after the stage of excitement is developed, the pulse
is rapid and vibratory, there is sometimes a determination
of blood to the brain which speedily produces a redness of
the eyes intolerance of light throbbing pain in the head, tin-
nus aurium, watchfulness and confusion of the mind, or
delirium. But the head is sometimes much less affected
and throughout the whole stage of excitement the patient
complains of soreness about the throat, and difficult deg-
lutation, also a soreness and heat in some of the abdominal
viscera, accompanied with tension fullness and constipation
of the bowels, with a short, quick, and anxious breathing,
very rapid pulse, and considerable irritability and flatu-

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lency of the stomach. In other cases neither the head
nor abdominal viscera seem so decidedly affected
as above described, but the greatest affection appears
to exist in some part of the pulmonary system, and
particularly the Trachea.

But whatever parts may be affected the stage of excitement soon gives way and is followed
by that of collapse, in which the heat is greatly diminished
the general powers fail, the pulse becomes weak and quick
the skin more lax, the tongue fatter and the respiration
more laborious; in a word, all those symptoms called
putrid and malignant make their appearance. In the
last stage the patient sinks under convulsions, vomiting or
suffocation according to the organs affected. But in
whatever mode death approaches there is always in the
beginning of the disease a marked and unequivocal
stage of general and high excitement to which the ap-
pearance of extreme debility and putrescence of the last stage
may be traced as mere consequences. It is this acutely
inflammatory form of the disease that has been domin-





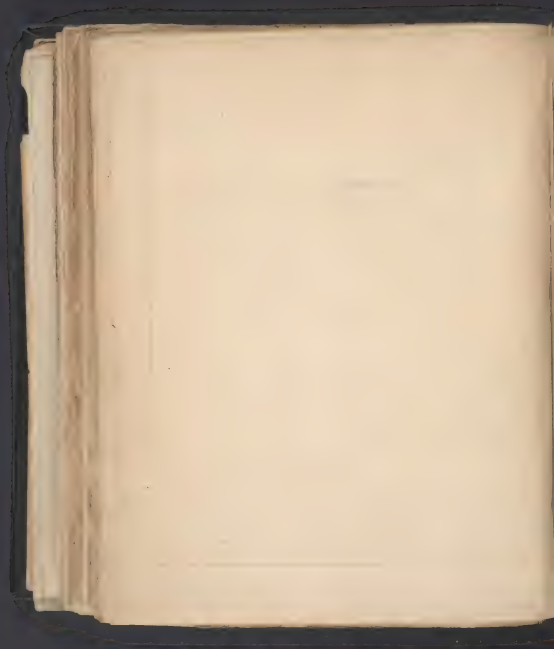
they are simply the products of previous inflammation
and to consider them in any other light - we also give
us most erroneous views of the nature and treatment
of both of these diseases. In all ^{cases} of violent
cases of ~~typhoid~~ ^{typhoid} ~~inflammation~~ the extremities are cold
great heat about the chest and forehead, the face
very considerably flushed; in the afternoon the excite-
-tion is considerable and is sometimes almost a
delirium. In the morning there is considerable pro-
-stration. In some cases the more or less morbid action
the patient is getting well. As the evening comes on
the whole of the symptoms are much increased as a
- rule. In some cases there is an affection of the
parotid or submaxillary glands: with these symptoms
there is frequently a Coryza that excoriates the nostrils
and adjacent parts. If by any means, whether natural
or artificial the excitement should be completely
- told the morbid action subsides without deranging
the structure of any vital parts, and of course the
patient is restored to health: But if the excitement



be allowed to run on and should not be moderated -
it generally advances until it produces the disorgan-
ization of some important part, and is then succeeded
by fatal collapse.

In Scarlatina the excitement proceeds to
the second or third week before it occasions a mortal
lesion. But in the more aggravated forms of lym-
phatic Maligna as the excitement runs much higher, so it term-
inates life much sooner by disorganizing some vital
action. It is the opinion of Dr. Chapman that there
is no specific difference between Scarlatina and lym-
phatic Maligna, of which there can be no doubt. But
Scarlatina does sometimes exist without any, or but
slight affection of the throat. I have seen several cases
of the disease in which the patient died not complaining
of any affection of the throat.

Scarlatina affects adults
as often as children, while, on the other hand, the
maligna is almost peculiar to children, and it is often
known for a cold, than that it is more frequently



an atmosphere of blood. I was particularly desirous
not to mislead by assuming the throat as the chief
local affection, and less, and the internal disor-
gements which are always the concomitants of the
disease. From a cautious survey of the symptoms
of this disease during life, and from the examina-
tion of several bodies of the dead, I think it un-
necessary in stating that the brain, the stomach,
the liver, the lungs and the intestines are most fre-
quently affected in Cancer of the Throat, and that
inflammation in some one of these parts, together with
the affection of the throat is generally the cause of
death.

It is important to observe, and particularly to remem-
ber, that which uniformly accompanies any part or organ.
But, on the contrary, it is equally improper to fix the
attention so exclusively upon this particular part as
to withdraw it from any other of more importance.
It must not be understood from these remarks that
I mean to proceed in the treatise upon an attention



to the throat and lungs, for on the other hand, I think they cannot be too narrowly watched; not only with a view to temper the inflammation, but to prevent it from spreading to the adjacent parts. It must be remarked that even as the respiration is affected in this disease, the observation should be constantly directed to the pulmonary organs, and especially to the viscus membranae of the trachea which is not unfrequently affected.

I shall now speak more particularly of the congestive form of this disease.

If there is any efflorescence of the skin which is not an unfavourable symptom in the inflammatory form it may be remarked that however striking may be the inflammation of the throat & the pyrexia, a similar condition does not prevail between the formation of the efflorescence, and that of the throat; for there is sometimes a considerable affection of the throat, when the former is partial and even evanescent. The efflorescence is milky to



much diffused nor of so vivid a colour as in the
inflamed state of the tissue, and it is less
not more liable to disappear, and leave a healthy
portion of the furrow. Nor are the lips and sides
of the tongue of so bright a colour as in the inflam-
matory state. Soon after the commencement of this
stage the mind is often much debilitated, the patient
is in a state of dullness and confusion, the eyes
sometimes appear vacant, and the pupils dilated. Yet
in some instances the intellect appears clear for a time
though unconscious is always felt in some of the viscera,
and the bowels are often constipated.

Delirium is not very common at first, but very
often ~~the~~ often appears afterwards, and is generally
a conspicuous symptom in the advanced stage.

The tongue becomes much fouler, the stomach is flatulent,
the bowels are irregular, and sometimes constipated. The
pulse is very irregular, and sometimes very low.
The disease terminates either in recovery
or in death. It has most commonly a fatal
issue.

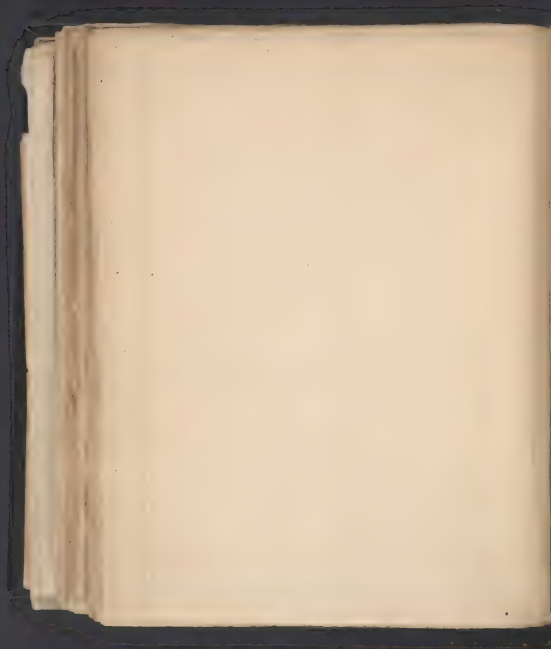


of bile. The pulse is low and variable. This form of the disease is sometimes protracted to the end of several days; when it ends successfully the recovery is very slow, owing to the great collapse which succeeds to the state of imperfect excitement. If it be not actively treated soon after the attack, there ensues a more fatal inflammation, a more violent local inflammation of the lungs, liver, the intestines, or other important parts, one of these inflammations if not speedily arrested, thus may gradually or suddenly terminate in death, and as the disease is often attended with multiform delirium, by vomiting, purging, or apparent suffocation, according to the part most affected.

Towards the conclusion of this disease there are frequently appearances of intyphelichia: oozing of black blood from the nose & the lips.

Treatment.

This disease is perhaps, more rapid in its progress than this; or at least than the more inflammatory forms of it. When, therefore, the exciting stage is once fairly revealed it is absolutely necessary to act with the greatest decision, since every



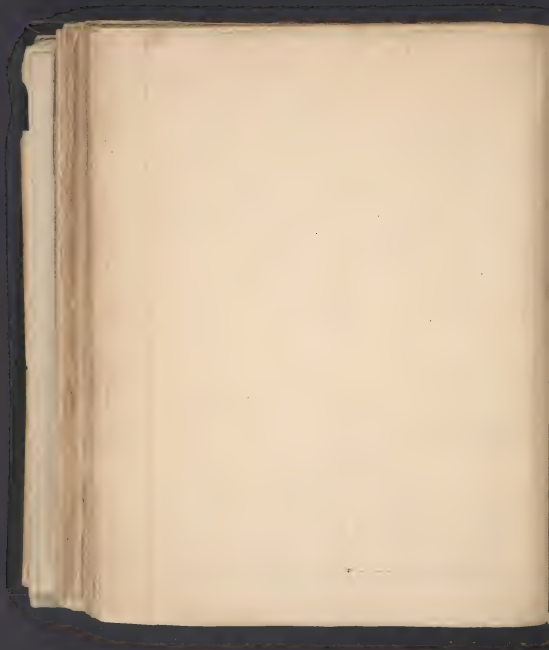
moment of time is the most precious. If it shall be
allowed to pass away out of his sight, he shall find
it occasions the loss of an important part, and the con-
sequence of the great power, which is
usually local common. It is therefore, in the
[and for this purpose should select the last night of the
or that in Cambridge, and affirm the same. V
which is a very great and important
affair.

It is the duty of the people to be ready to
stand up for the cause of the oppressed, and to
be ready to stand up for the cause of the oppressed.
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people are not ready to stand up for the cause of
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oppressed.

If there is much determination of mind to the
cause, it should be kept constantly in mind, that







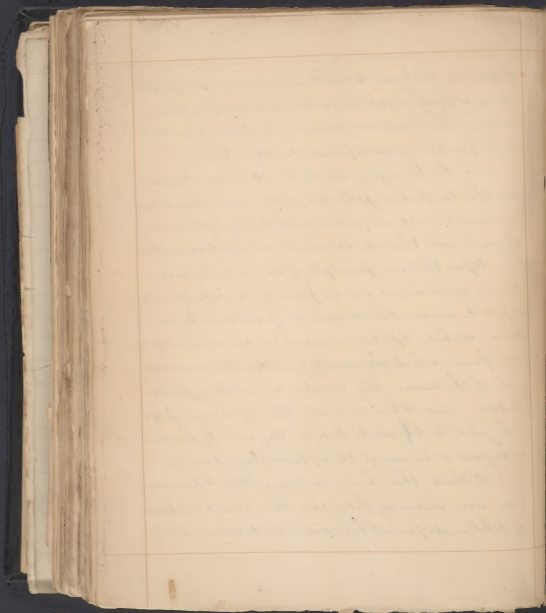


13.
"In fact, the Senna is sometimes answers a good purpose. ✓
Opium is highly useful here, as in all diseases of a similar
nature. The Barks and various other tonics, have been
used, far too numerous for me to detail here.

In bringing my observations to a close I must
say that the partial application of the means above recom-
mended, is not answer in the highly inflammatory
stages, and this use would be inevitably mortal.

Upon the same principle if we use a moderate
bleeding in a violent case of pleurisy, we should not
expect to remove the disease; or if we were to use
those violent depletory measures in the more ad-
vanced form, which are usually used in the commence-
ment of the disease, they would undoubtedly prove
fatal. And I have no doubt that if they are prop-
erly used in Erysipelas Maligna they will be found ✓
as useful as in any of the inflammatory diseases.

I think that there is no disease that I have ever
seen, more universally fatal than this; though fortun-
ately, I believe, so far as I have been able to observe, it is of



16
Comparatively rare occurred.

It will be perceived that I have not gone into details as to remedies, but have spoken of them in a very general way. But I hope that my observations have been sufficiently minute to give a pretty good idea of the mode of treatment I have suggested.

I have seen this method tried in a number of cases and I am led to believe that it will for ever be almost universally successful, if judiciously applied.

